

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An adjustable vehicular airflow control device comprising:
 - (a) a deflector panel adapted to be disposed on ~~a front section of~~ a vehicle to selectively control airflow about ~~the front section of~~ the vehicle; and
 - (b) an actuator assembly coupled to the deflector panel for ~~both linearly moving the deflector panel and rotating the deflector panel~~, wherein the actuator assembly is adapted to ~~vertically move the deflector panel independently from rotating the deflector panel to~~ independently adjust an inclination and an elevation of the deflector panel, and wherein the actuator assembly is adapted to adjust the elevation of the deflector panel without resulting in a substantial change in the inclination or a longitudinal position of the deflector panel.
2. (Currently amended) The adjustable vehicular airflow control device of Claim 1, wherein the actuator assembly is adapted to ~~linearly move the deflector panel in a fore and aft direction independently from rotating the deflector panel~~ to simultaneously adjust the elevation and the inclination of the deflector panel.
3. (Currently amended) The adjustable vehicular airflow control device of Claim 1, wherein the actuator assembly is adapted to ~~simultaneously move the deflector panel in a linear and rotational manner~~ to adjust a longitudinal position of the deflector panel.
- 4-6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently amended) The adjustable vehicular airflow control device of Claim 1, wherein the actuator assembly moves the deflector panel from a stored position in which the deflector panel is substantially flush mounted in an opening in ~~a hood of the front section of~~ the vehicle, and a deployed position in which at least a portion of the deflector panel is disposed above the ~~hood~~ opening to engage an airstream flowing over the ~~hood~~ vehicle.
8. (Original) The adjustable vehicular airflow control device of Claim 1, further comprising a controller coupled in communication with the actuator assembly, the controller operable to automatically control the actuator assembly to move the deflector panel based upon a sensed speed of the vehicle.

9. (Currently amended) The adjustable vehicular airflow control device of Claim 1, further comprising a controller coupled in communication with the actuator assembly, the controller operable to automatically control the actuator assembly to ~~linearly move and rotate~~ adjust the elevation and the inclination of the deflector panel based upon a sensed speed of the vehicle.

10. (Currently amended) The adjustable vehicular airflow control device of Claim 1, wherein the actuator assembly is adapted to ~~both linearly move the deflector panel and rotate the deflector panel while the vehicle is in motion~~ without resulting in a substantial change in the longitudinal position of the deflector panel.

11. (Currently amended) An adjustable vehicular airflow control device comprising:

(a) a deflector panel adapted to be disposed on ~~a front section of a vehicle to selectively control airflow about the front section of the vehicle; and~~

(b) an actuator assembly coupled to the deflector panel, the actuator assembly adapted to selectively displace the deflector panel ~~substantially in a fore and aft direction relative to the vehicle and independently in a substantially vertical direction~~ independently in three or more degrees of freedom.

12. (Currently amended) An adjustable vehicular airflow control device comprising:

(a) a deflector panel for mounting on ~~the front section of a vehicle;~~

(b) an actuator assembly coupled to the deflector panel, the actuator assembly adapted to adjust a position of the deflector panel relative to the vehicle; and

(c) a controller coupled in communication with the actuator assembly, the controller operable to automatically control the actuator assembly to adjust the position of the deflector panel in a vertical, horizontal, and rotational manner independently of one another based upon a sensed speed of the vehicle.

13-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A front section of a vehicle comprising:

(a) a hood having a top surface, the top surface having an opening therein;

(b) an adjustable airflow control device comprising:

(i) a deflector panel; and
(ii) an actuator assembly for moving the deflector panel into a stored position in which the deflector panel is substantially flush mounted in the opening, and a deployed position in which at least a portion of the deflector panel is disposed above the top surface to engage an airstream flowing over the top surface, and wherein the actuator assembly is adapted to adjust the deployed position of the deflector panel by ~~both raising and rotatingly displacing the deflector panel independently of one another~~ adjusting an elevation without resulting in a substantial change in an inclination or a horizontal position of the deflector panel.

17. (Currently amended) A method of controlling a position of a deflector panel disposed on ~~a front section of~~ a vehicle, the method comprising:

(a) sensing a speed of the vehicle; and
(b) automatically adjusting an inclination and a height of the deflector panel independently of one another based upon the sensed speed of the vehicle, such that the height of the deflector panel may be adjusted without resulting in a substantial change in a longitudinal position or the inclination of the deflector panel.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 17, further comprising ~~automatically~~ simultaneously adjusting a ~~fore and aft location~~ height and the inclination of the deflector panel based upon the sensed speed of the vehicle.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 17, further comprising decreasing an inclination of the deflector panel as the ~~determined~~ sensed speed increases.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 17, further comprising decreasing a height of a center of the deflector panel as the sensed speed increases.

24. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 17, further comprising selectively positioning the deflector panel in a stowed position in which the deflector panel is flush mounted within an opening in a top surface of ~~the front section of~~ the vehicle.

25. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 17, further comprising simultaneously lowering a height of a center of the deflector panel and decreasing an inclination of the deflector panel based upon an increase in the sensed speed of the vehicle.

26. (Currently amended) An adjustable vehicular airflow control device comprising a deflector panel adapted to be disposed on a ~~front section of~~ a vehicle to selectively control airflow about ~~the front section of~~ the vehicle, the deflector panel independently adjustable in a ~~vertical~~ first linear direction, in a second linear direction, and in an inclination relative to the vehicle ~~and independently adjustable in inclination~~ while the vehicle is moving.

27. (Currently amended) An adjustable vehicular airflow control device comprising a deflector panel adapted to be disposed on a ~~front section of~~ a vehicle to selectively control airflow about ~~the front section of~~ the vehicle, the deflector panel independently adjustable in a fore and aft direction, in elevation, and in inclination relative to the vehicle while the vehicle is moving such that movement of the deflector panel is not restricted to a single predetermined path.

28. (Currently amended) An adjustable vehicular airflow control device comprising a deflector panel adapted to be disposed on a ~~front section of~~ a vehicle to selectively control airflow about ~~the front section of~~ the vehicle, the deflector panel independently adjustable in a vertical direction relative to the vehicle, ~~a fore and aft direction relative to the vehicle~~, and in inclination relative to the vehicle, and wherein the deflector panel may be adjusted in the vertical direction without substantially changing a fore and aft location or the inclination of the deflector panel.